

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: MUSEUMS,
CATALOGUE AND DATES

REF: (A) STATE 110285 (B) STATE 111405

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT JUNE 1 MEETING PRC WAS INFORMED THAT
WASHINGTON AND KANSAS CITY WOULD BE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION
SITES, NAME OF SPONSORING COMMITTEE WAS PROVIDED,
AND INQUIRIES WERE MADE CONCERNING CATALOGUE AND
ORDER OF EXHIBIT AS WELL AS REVISED DATES FOR EXHIBIT'S
STAY IN U.S. CHINESE TOOK TOUGH LINE ON PUBLICITY AND
WERE UNBENDING ON FURTHER EXTENSION OF STAY IN U.S.
WE PROMISED EARLY REPLY ON TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS. END
SUMMARY

1. DC JENKINS AND ANDERSON CALLED ON MFA INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR HSIAO TEH JUNE 1 FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF PRC ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION. JENKINS
MADE PRESENTATION BASED ON POINTS REFTELS, INFORMING
HIM OF TWO EXHIBITION SITES, SPONSORING ORGANIZATION,
AND RAISING QUESTION OF CATALOGUE AND ORDER OF
EXHIBITION AS WELL AS DATES FOR EXHIBITION IN U.S.
ON LAST QUESTION JENKINS ARGUED STRONGLY THE IMPORTANCE
OF HAVING THE EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON DURING THE EASTER
VACATION, CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PERIOD, NOTING THAT
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VISITORS WOULD COME TO
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WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME. HE PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S

PROPOSED DATES, AND NOTED THAT THIS WOULD LEAVE LESS THAN TWO MONTHS FOR EXHIBITION IN KANSAS CITY.

2. HSIAO PROVIDED POINT BY POINT RESPONSE. REGARDING U.S. CHOICE OF WASHINGTON AND KANSAS CITY AS TWO EXHIBITION SITES, HE NOTED THAT WHEN PRC HAD PROPOSED SIX-MONTH STAY AND EXHIBIT IN TWO CITIES IT HAD AGREED THAT CHOICE OF SITES WOULD BE LEFT TO U.S. SIDE. HSIAO SAID CHINESE WOULD NOW LIKE TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONCRETE DETAILS ON TWO GALLERIES, INCLUDING SIZE, EQUIPMENT, LAYOUT ETC. HE SAID THE SHOW REQUIRES TWO THOUSAND SQUARE METERS OF FLOOR SPACE.

3. ON QUESTION OF U.S. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION, HSIAO ASKED FOR ENGLISH NAME AND LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE PROVIDED HIM WITH ENGLISH NAME AS "NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S COMMITTEE FOR THE CHINESE EXHIBITION". IN ADDITION TO A NAMELIST OF MEMBERS, HSIAO WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS AND WHO IS IN CHARGE.

4. TURNING TO OUR STATEMENTS ON THE ORDER OF THE EXHIBITION AND THE CATALOGUE, HSIAO NOTED THAT TWO MAIN CONCERNS OF THE CHINESE SIDE IN ALL OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WERE A) SECURITY AND B) PUBLICITY. HE SAID CHINESE CONCERN WITH PUBLICITY COVERED NOT ONLY THE OFFICIAL MATERIALS SUCH AS THE CATALOGUE, BUT ALSO TELEVISION COVERAGE AND PRESS RELEASES. OBSERVING THAT WE HAD INDICATED PLANS TO USE CANADIAN TEXT FOR OUR CATALOGUE, HSIAO SAID THERE REMAIN MANY PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED WITH THE CANADIANS OVER THEIR CATALOGUE. CANADIANS, HE SAID, HAD USED NOT ONLY PROC PROVIDED MATERIALS FOR THEIR CATALOGUE, BUT HAD ALSO INCLUDED MATERIAL FROM OTHER CATALOGUES PREPARED BY THIRD COUNTRIES, SOME OF WHICH POSED PROBLEMS. AS EXAMPLE OF PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED IN PAST, HSIAO CITED UNNAMED COUNTRY WHICH PRODUCED CATALOGUE CONTAINING A MAP UNACCEPTABLE TO CHINESE. EVERY COPY OF CATALOGUE, HE SAID, HAD TO HAVE THE MAP CUT OUT.

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5. ON QUESTION OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS, HSIAO OFFERED TWO SUGGESTIONS. FIRST, IT WOULD BE BEST TO USE MATERIALS PROVIDED BY PRC. HE SAID PRC PREPARED TO PROVIDE CATALOGUE TEXT AS WELL AS OTHER ACCOMPANYING PUBLICITY. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL ITEMS IN EXHIBIT, INCLUDING COLOR PHOTOS. SECONDLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT AS U.S. SIDE PREPARES IT MATERIAL IT SUBMIT IT TO CHINESE SIDE TO INSURE THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH IT. HSIAO

CONCLUDED THIS POINT BY SAYING HE HOPED U.S. SIDE WOULD GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES BEFORE THEY AROSE. HE NOTED THAT PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBITION WAS THE STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND CHINESE PEOPLES AND IT BEST TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

6. TURNING TO OUR REEQUEST THAT CHINESE CONSIDER MINOR CHANGES IN DATES FOR EXHIBITION, HSIAO AGAIN WENT THROUGH HIS LITANY ABOUT CHINESE CONCERN FOR NATURAL DETERIORATION OF EXHIBIT ARTICLES. HE POINTED OUT THAT CLIMATE IN PEKING IS DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF OTHER PARTS OF CHINA AND IS ALSO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CITIES WHERE ARTICLES EXHIBITED. HE SAID EXPERTS WITH THE EXHIBIT HAD ALREADY REPORTED SOME NATURAL CHANGES. SOME ARE READILY VISIBLE TO ANYONE AND SOME ARE INTERNAL CHANGES OBSERVABLE ONLY BY EXPERTS. HSIAO SAID EXHIBIT ALREADY EXTENDED BEYOND THE ORIGINAL PLANNED STAY ABROAD IN ORDER TO PERMIT SIX-MONTH STAY IN U.S. THIS WAS DONE, HE SAID, IN VIEW OF HIGHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS BORNE BY U.S. AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SIZE OF THE U.S. WHEN RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS WERE APPROACHED ABOUT INITIAL EXTENSION, HSIAO SAID, THEY WERE NOT PLEASED BY AGREED TO THE REQUEST. HE SAID HE COULD ASSURE US THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO A FURTHER EXTENSION. OBSERVING THAT MFA MUST ABIDE BY EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS, HSIAO SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FURTHER EXTEND THE EXHIBIT'S STAY IN U.S. AND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND. AS FOR DIVISION OF TIME BETWEEN TWO CITIES, HSIAO SAID CHINESE WOULD LEAVE THAT TO U.S. TO DETERMINE.

7. IN REPLY, JENKINS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HSIAO'S EXPLANATION AND UNDERSTANDING FOR PRC'S CONCERN ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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RELICS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS SURE THAT BOTH OF THE TWO MUSEUMS COULD PROVIDE TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY CONTROL FOR THE EXHIBIT ITEMS IN CONFORMITY WITH WHATEVER CHINESE EXPERTS REQUIRED. HSIAO RESPONDED BY REPEATING THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE CHINESE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS WOULD NOT AGREE TO A FURTHER EXTENSION.

8. ON QUESTION OF PUBLICITY MATERIALS, JENKINS THANKED HSIAO FOR OFFER TO PROVIDED MATERIALS AND PHOTOGRAPHS AND SAID WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO USE CHINESE MATERIALS PROVIDED THEY DID NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. SIDE. JENKINS CONCLUDED BY AGREEING THAT A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT WAS THE STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINESE PEOPLES AND PROMISED EARLY RESPONSE ON

TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS TO BE EXCHANGED.

9. COMMENT: HSIAO WAS ABSOLUTELY UNBENDING ON QUESTION OF EVEN SLIGHT EXTENSION OF EXHIBIT'S STAY IN U.S. DESPITE RATIONALE WHICH WE PROVIDED. WE ALSO FOUND HIM QUITE TOUGH IN HIS ADMONITION TO USE PRC PROVIDED MATERIALS, AND WE EXPECT THE CHINESE TO BE VERY RIGID ON THIS POINT. IN THEIR VIEW, CHINESE HAVE BEEN BURNED SEVERAL TIMES BY PUBLICITY MATERIALS CONNECTED WITH EXHIBITION, MOST SERIOUSLY BY THE BRITISH. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO AVOID SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE AND HAVE PLACED INCREASINGLY TIGHTER RESTRICTINS ON PUBLICITY MATERIAL AS THE EXHIBITION HAS MOVED FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIANS HAVE TOLD US PRC HAS OBJECTED TO TITLE OF THEIR CATALOGUE WHICH IS "CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION" AND ARE INSISTING ON FULL TITLE AS GIVEN BY PRC SIDE. LARGE MEASURE OF THIS UNFLEXIBILITY, OF COURSE, DERIVES FROM CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN. PRESENT FOCUS ON CONFUCIUS AND CHINA'S FEUDAL PERIOD PUTS PRC BUREAUCRATS IN AN EXPOSED POSITION SHOULD THEY DEMONSTRATE ANY FLEXIBILITY REGARDING PERIODIZATION, TITLES OR TEXTUAL MATERIALS.

JENKINS

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